

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sundhar. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest at least the features for sending a message file to other registered communication terminals via the message management unit, nor for leaving a message on a bulletin board unit, as described in all independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10.

The present invention is directed to a communications system in which a plurality of communication terminals connected to a network mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number, which is issued by a management terminal also connected to a network. Among other things, the present invention includes a feature for sending a message file directly to the other communication terminals on the network via a message management unit. A bulletin board unit is also provided for leaving a message by any of the communication terminals to be accessed by other communication terminals in the network having a common phone number.

The Sundhar reference discloses an apparatus for allowing a subscriber to access messages from a common voicemail system for a number of different phones, i.e., a message left for any of the phones is stored in a common voicemail box which is accessible by any of the different phones. The reference teaches that all or selected phones may be notified of the message in the voicemail box.

In the apparatus of Sundhar, when a message is stored in a voicemail box, one or more phones in the network are merely notified of the existence of this message via a message indicator (see col.4, lines 23-38). It does not, however, teach or suggest sending a message file ✓ itself to a communication terminal in the network via a message management unit, as in the, present invention.

Moreover, the message indicator 104 of Sundhar is cited as disclosing the claimed bulletin board unit. The message indicator of Sundhar merely indicates that a message is stored in the voicemail, fore example, by a flashing light. It is not used for leaving the message itself to be accessed by other communication terminals in the network, as in the present invention. For at

least these reasons, claims 1, 4, 7 and 10, and their respective dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 and 11-12, are allowable over the cited reference.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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